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Washington, D.C. 20505

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22 APR 1982

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Honorable Orrin G. Hatch, Chairman
Committee on Labor and Human Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I appreciate the background provided in your letter to me of 24 March 1982 on the Labor Committee's heightened interest in international issues under your Chairmanship, and on the reasons behind your request to have two Committee staff members cleared for access to SI/TK materials.

Your letter is correct in noting that such clearances have not been granted to Members and staff of the Labor Committee in the past, nor have they, for that matter, been issued to those associated with by far the greater majority of all Congressional Committees. The reason for this is the absence of any demonstrable need for such access in the normal activities of most Committees; by extension of this principle, we have made a concerted effort to apply extremely strict criteria in restricting such clearances to staffs of certain Committees with an explicit and continuing need for certain sensitive data required to perform their day-to-day functions.

It is, of course, recognized that individual Members of certain other Committees, such as yours, may periodically have a valid need for the rather specialized data treated in SI/TK materials. It is possible, in certain extraordinary cases, that staff members of such Committees, too, may be granted such clearances providing they can demonstrate in detail an explicit need related to specific ongoing business of the Committee. It was also foreseen, in the establishment and consolidation on the role of the Congressional Intelligence Oversight Committees, that one of the important functions of those Committees would be to serve as common points of reference and advice, on behalf of Members and staffs of other Committees, for inquiries where more restrictive clearances and appropriate conduits are required.

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While I would, of course, welcome a further exchange with you as to just how the above considerations relate to your particular needs, I regret I must advise you that the apparent needs of your staff members for clearances as requested in your letter do not meet the admittedly stringent criteria established for the maximum possible protection of such special data. Should you wish personally to have access to or to be briefed on SI/TK materials I, of course, stand ready to give your request my immediate attention.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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OEXA:JGP:rjg (16 Apr 82)

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